

***Bill Would Provide Medical Treatment and Compensation  
Still Not Funded 9 Years After Worst Terrorist Attacks in American History***

**Washington, DC** - On September 10, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) stood shoulder to shoulder with firefighters to call for passage of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which would provide medical monitoring, treatment, and economic compensation for those who were injured or made sick by the toxic cloud that lingered for weeks following the collapse of the World Trade Center towers. Today, the House overcame Republican opposition to pass the legislation of which Hinchey was an original co-sponsor.

"Nine years after our country was brutally attacked, it's a tragedy that the men and women who risked everything to save others have still not received the healthcare and compensation they deserve," said Hinchey. "The firefighters, police, nurses, EMTs, construction workers and everyday citizens who risked their own health during rescue and recovery efforts will now receive the care and compensation they deserve."

In July, the bill failed to achieve the high, two-thirds majority required for passage under the "suspension of the rules" parliamentary procedure that was used to bring the bill before the House. Today, the House considered the measure under a rule. Despite an attempt to kill the bill again using last minute legislative maneuver, the measure passed with a simple majority.

The current program to assist responders fails to adequately provide necessary medical services. The James Zadroga bill would create the World Trade Center Health Program to monitor and treat responders and community residents for health conditions related to the terrorist attacks. The bill, which would cost \$7.4 billion over the next ten years, is fully paid for by a provision preventing foreign multinational firms that are incorporated in tax haven countries from avoiding tax on income earned in the U.S.

The bill builds upon the existing, unauthorized federal program administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that provides monitoring and treatment services through medical Centers of Excellence to responders and community residents affected by the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. The Zadroga bill would also reopen the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 (VCF) to provide compensation for economic damages and losses to first responders, recovery workers and others injured in the aftermath of the attacks,

including persons who were exposed to World Trade Center toxins during debris removal.